

Please indicate whether the reference was considered. In the event that the original copy was lost, a copy of the abstract for JP06286008 is enclosed.

OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

Claims 1-3 and 14-15 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Application No. 10/009,394. This rejection is now moot. An office action was mailed on October 23, 2003 for 10/009,394. No response was filed to this office action. Therefore, 10/009,394 is now abandoned.

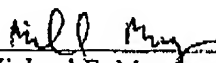
35 U.S.C. §102 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 99 141. The 99 141 refers to the docket number of the originating German application, which was present on the first page of the translation. This document is the present application. On the first page of the specification for the present application, the 99141 number is present in the upper left corner. Because 99 141 is a translation of the present application, and because an application is not prior art to itself, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-16 are not anticipated by their priority application.

Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 199 20 799. DE 199 20 799 is the present application. The priority to DE 199 20 799 was claimed in the Application Data Sheet. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-16 are not anticipated by their priority application.

In view of the amendments and remarks contained above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the 35 USC §102 and Obviousness-type Double Patenting rejections, and request that a Formal Notice of Allowance be issued for claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9-16. Should the Examiner have any questions about the above remarks, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael F. Morgan, Esq. (Reg. No. 42,906)
(248) 948-2355
BASF Corporation
26701 Telegraph Road
Southfield, MI 48034-2442

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